

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/22/06

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 371 (Sanborn)

SB 371 would amend the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act to include an industrial pattern manufacturer as a "qualified tool and die business"; increase the maximum number of tool and die renaissance recovery zones to 21; and allow the modification of a collaborative agreement between qualified tool and die businesses.

• The Senate concurred with the House amendments to SB 371 [RC 155: 38 yes, 0 no].

SB 907 (Cropsey)

Senate Bill 907 would amend the Revised Judicature Act (RJA) to allow the addition of one judgeship in the Seventh and 49th Judicial Circuits. The Seventh Judicial Circuit consists of Genesee County and currently has nine judges. The 49th Judicial Circuit consists of Mecosta and Osceola Counties and currently has one judge. Under the bill, subject to Section 550 of the RJA, the Seventh and 49th Circuits each could have one additional judge effective January 1, 2007.

• The Senate concurred with the House amendments to SB 907 [RC 153: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 932 (Allan)

Senate Bill 932 would update the Pupil Transportation Act to bring the law concerning bus transportation for school students into conformity with federal laws and rules, as well as with the Michigan Vehicle Code

• The Senate concurred with the House amendments to SB 932 [RC 154: 37 yes, 0 no].

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 971 (Brown) SB 972 (Birkholz) Sales of other State land with less recreational value and economic potential are subject to thorough review and require legislative authorization. The bills would require proposed State park land sales and transfers to undergo a process including public input, multiple levels of review, and legislative approval, ensuring that the parks were shielded from misuse as cash reservoirs to address short-term budget woes.

Senate Bill 971 would amend Part 741 (State Parks System) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to do the following: Require the DNR to submit to the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks a proposal regarding the transfer of more than 15% of a State park, and hold a public hearing on the proposed transfer. Require the Committee to review the proposal and make a recommendation to the DNR regarding the proposed transfer. Require the DNR to make a recommendation on the transfer to the Legislature. Prohibit the transfer of more than 15% of a State park's total acreage unless authorized by law. Require the Committee to submit to the Legislature periodic reports on State parks.

- *Committee S-3 was not adopted.*
- Brown S-5 was adopted.
- SB 971 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.
- Brown 1 was adopted [no RC]
- SB 971 passed with IE [RC 157: 38 yes, 0 no].

Senate Bill 972 would amend the General Real Estate Powers Act to prohibit the DNR from designating as surplus land any land within a State park or State recreation area, except as provided in Senate Bill 971.

- *Committee S-1 was adopted.*
- SB 972 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.
- SB 972 passed with IE [RC 158: 38 yes, 0 no].

SB 1044 (Allen)

Senate Bill 1044 would amend the (Mackinac Island State Park Commission) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to authorize the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to accept gifts, grants, and donations, and to sell real or personal property under its control if all of the following requirements were met: The property was sold for fair market value. -The Commission determined that the property was not of current or potential value to the Commission's statutory purposes. The Commission determined that the sale of the property was in the State's best interest. The sale of the property was not otherwise prohibited by law. The property was zoned residential or commercial and was not contiguous to State park land, if the property were real property.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 1044 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.
- SB 1044 passed with IE [RC 159: 38 yes, 0 no].

SB 1104 (Cropsey)

Senate Bill 1104 would amend the Revised Judicature Act (RJA) to increase the fees for publishing a legal notice or an order, citation, summons, advertisement, or other matter arising out of judicial proceedings required by law to be published in a newspaper. The bill also specifies that The RJA provides that each year for three years, beginning June 1, 1996, the rates must be adjusted by the increase in the rate of inflation, as measured by the Detroit consumer price index (CPI). Also that each year, beginning June 1, 2007, the rates would have to be adjusted by the increase in the Detroit CPI, and rounded to the nearest multiple of five cents. Max. cost per folio for first insertion, current \$15 new \$20.50.

Max. cost per folio for each subsequent insertion, current \$5.85 new \$8.45.

Min. allowable cost for a notice that must appear at least twice, current \$42.50 new \$59.00.

Min. allowable cost for a notice that must appear only once, current \$31.60 new \$44.00.

- Cropsey 1 was adopted.
- SB 1104 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills
- SB 1104 passed with IE [RC 156: 38 yes, no].

HB 5508 (Pavlov)

House Bill 5508 would amend the Motor Fuels Quality Act to do the following: (1) lower the required vapor pressure of gasoline sold in Southeast Michigan counties to 7.0 psi (pounds per square inch); (2) Delete provisions regarding Stage II vapor recovery systems; (3) permit the governor, upon a declaration of an emergency, to suspend vapor pressure requirements; and (4) permit gasoline refiners, distributors, and terminals to petition the Department of Agriculture for a temporary variance from vapor pressure standards.

- *Birkholz 1a was adopted.*
- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- HB 5508 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.
- HB 5508 passed with IE [RC 160: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 5743 (Drolet)

HB 5743 would repeal the Single Business Tax (SBT) Act effective for tax years beginning December 31, 2007. This bill would reduce single business tax revenue an estimated \$1.1 billion in FY 2007-08 and would eliminate all single business tax revenue in subsequent fiscal years, which would total about \$2.0 billion in FY 2008-09. All of this reduction in revenue would affect the General Fund/General Purpose budget.

- Cassis 1-A was withdrawn.
- Committee S-2 was not adopted.
- Cassis 2 was adopted.
- HB 5743 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.
- Prusi 1 was not adopted [RC 161: 16 yes, 22 no]. (SBT will not be cut unless there is another revenue source.

• HB 5743 passed [RC 162: 21 yes, 17 no]. IE was not granted [RC 163: 23 yes, 15 no].

THIRD READING OF BILLS

SB 376 (Jacobs)

Senate Bill 376 a State employee, other than one employed in the State classified civil service, could be allowed leave time to permit him or her to serve as an organ donor. Participation in the program could not result in a loss or reduction in pay or affect leave time to which the organ donor otherwise was entitled; credit for time of service; or a performance or efficiency rating. In any calendar year, an eligible State employee could use up to 30 days of leave to serve as an organ donor.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 376 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.

SB 1110 (Garcia)

SB 1110 would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow a court to place a person convicted of third- or fourth-degree child abuse on probation for up to five years. Generally, under the Code, a defendant convicted of an offense that is not a felony may be given a probationary period that does not exceed two years, and the probationary period for a defendant convicted of a felony may not exceed five years. Under the bill, a court could place a person convicted of the misdemeanor of third- or fourth-degree child abuse on probation for not more than five years.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 1110 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.

HB 4161 (Pastor)

HB 4161 would amend the Acknowledgment of Parentage Act to state that under an acknowledgment of parentage, the mother would have initial custody of the child until otherwise determined by the court. The grant of initial custody to the mother would not affect the custodial or parenting rights of either parent in court proceedings. The Act provides that if a child is born out of wedlock, a man is considered to be the natural father of the child if the man and the mother complete and sign an acknowledgment of parentage, and the signatures are notarized. After a mother and father sign an acknowledgment of parentage, the mother is presumed to have custody of the minor child unless otherwise determined by the court or otherwise agreed upon by the parties in writing.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- HB 4161 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.

HB 4398 (Elsenheimer)

House Bill 4398 would repeal three zoning acts — the City and Village Zoning Act, the County Zoning Act, and the Township Zoning Act — and replace them with a single new act, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. In most cases, the bill would provide uniform provisions for the different forms of local government, but separate provisions would be retained in a few cases to reflect current differences in the composition, jurisdiction, and operations of zoning commissions of counties, cities and villages, and townships.

- Committee S-4 was withdrawn.
- Committee S-1 was not adopted.
- Birkholtz S-2 was adopted.
- HB 4398 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills.

HB 4838 (Wenke)

HB 4838 would amend the Management and Budget Act to require the Office of the State Budget Director to establish and maintain the Higher Education Institutional Data Inventory (HEIDI) to collect data on public universities in the State. It will also develop policies for the collection of data, including policies to ensure the privacy of student data and provide data to State policy-makers, assist public universities with audits, and perform other duties. The bill would place into statute language that has traditionally been included in the annual Higher Education appropriations act and would further define the duties of the State Budget Office. The FY 2005-06 Higher Education appropriations act includes \$200,000 for the HEIDI database, which is currently maintained by the Department of Information Technology's Center for Geographic Information. The FY 2006-07 Governor's recommendation for Higher Education also includes the \$200,000 appropriation.

• HB 4838 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills [no amendments].

HB 5282 (Wenke)

HB 5282 would amend the Career and Technical Preparation Act to remove a provision repealing the Act on June 30, 2006. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in at least one high school class in at least grade 11. He or she must have achieved a State endorsement in all subject areas on the high school proficiency exam (or, beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, a qualifying score in all subject areas on a readiness assessment test or the Michigan Merit Exam). Alternatively, a student may enroll in the program if he or she has achieved State endorsement in math and a qualifying score on a nationally or industry-recognized job skills assessment test.

• HB 5282 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills [no amendments].

HB 5620 (Garfield)

HB 5620 would amend the Michigan Vietnam Veterans Memorial Act to expand the boundaries of the Veterans Memorial Park in Lansing. (The Act established the Veterans Memorial Park in Lansing and required the Vietnam Veterans Memorial monument to be located there.)

• HB 5620 was moved to 3rd Reading of Bills [no amendments].

RESOLUTIONS

SCR 39 (Cropsey)

A concurrent resolution to request the State Bar of Michigan and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association to issue a joint report to the Legislature on the number and types of cases and the costs resulting from court-appointed attorneys for indigent criminal cases in Michigan.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SCR 39 passed [no RC]

SR 77 (Birkholz)

A resolution to urge the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to increase efforts to provide notification and public education on rip currents in the Great Lakes.

• SR 77 passed [no RC].

SR 78 (Van Woerkom)

A resolution to urge the Michigan Department of Education to provide information to help educate students about the dangers of rip tides and basic pier safety.

• SR 78 passed [no RC].